

USDA Farm Bill Forum in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii
November, 12, 2005

**Testimony by Wayne Nishijima, Associate Dean/Associate Director of Extension
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Good morning. I am Wayne Nishijima, Associate Dean and Associate Director of Extension, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) at the University of Hawaii, Manoa. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. I am addressing question six on research-related issues: How should agricultural . . . research-related issues be addressed in the next farm bill.

As a land-grant college, CTAHR is committed to the preparation of students and all citizens of Hawaii for life in the global community through research and educational programs supporting tropical agricultural systems that foster viable communities, a diversified economy, and a healthy environment.

CTAHR is supported by federal formula funds, state general and special funds, and grants and contracts. The federal formula funds we receive include Hatch, McIntire-Stennis, Animal Health and Disease, and Smith-Lever funds. In the past five years, our state funds have increased by 16% and grants and contracts have increased by 27%. However, our federal formula funds have either remained the same or been reduced during the same period.

Federal formula funds are used by CTAHR to support our multi-state and integrated teaching, research, and extension programs. Federal formula funds are also used to leverage our state funding.

Such as the 4-H program that the youngsters who opened the forum this morning belong to.

Most of Hawaii's crops are "minor" crops that are not grown on a commodity scale. Our Hatch-funded research addresses the challenges faced by minor crops grown in our unique, tropical environment. This federal support for research enables us to meet local needs that do not easily fit into competitive programs.

Without Hatch funding, Hawaii would not be the unique visitor destination it is today. Growers of tropical flowers such as anthurium, protea, and dendrobium orchids; the pineapple and macadamia nut industries; and the producers of tropical fruits such as papaya, lychee, rambutan, and guava—all receive assistance from CTAHR made possible through Hatch and Smith-Lever funds. Without federal formula funds we would be unable to register the pesticides that are necessary to produce these minor crops. In addition, our McIntire-Stennis funds support restoration of native Hawaiian trees and control of invasive species in agroforestry ecosystems.

Rather than diverting formula funds into NRI competitive grant programs, CSREES should invest more money in formula funds. Data show that competitive grants programs provide more support to non-land-grant institutions and rarely support minor crops. The new Farm Bill needs to boost formula funds so that we can provide adequate help to our stakeholders and be faithful to our land-grant mission. Thank you.